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essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of starch derivatives having a basic repeating unit structure of $C_6H_{10}O_5[,\underline{,}]$; viscous polysaccharides having a basic repeating unit structure of $C_6H_{10}O_5[,\underline{,}]$; water-soluble cellulose derivatives having a basic repeating unit structure $C_6H_{10}O_5$, and water-soluble synthetic resins.

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2. (Amended) The graphite material for the negative electrode [of a lithium ion secondary cell] as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said graphite material [for the negative electrode] further contains at least one alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element [selected from the group consisting of lithium, calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium].

3. (Amended) The graphite material for the negative electrode [of a lithium ion secondary cell] as claimed in Claim 2, wherein the content of said alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element is in the range of 50 to 30,000 ppm on the basis of said graphite material.

Please add the following new claims:

-7. The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said graphite material comprises at least one of the following:

natural graphite, artificial graphite, kish graphite, mesophase carbon micro-beads, mesophase carbon micro-fiber, and resin carbonized graphite.--

--8. The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 2, wherein said graphite material contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of lithium, calcium, magnesium, sodium and potassium.--

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--9. The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said starch derivatives are selected from the group consisting of acetic starch, phosphoric starch, carboxymethyl starch and hydroxy alkyl starch.--

--10. The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said viscous polysaccharides are selected from the group consisting of pullulan and dextrine.--

--11. The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble cellulose derivatives are selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose, methyl cellulose, hydroxyethyl cellulose, and hydroxypropyl cellulose.--

--12. The graphite material for the negative electrode

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according to claim 1, wherein said water-soluble synthetic resins are selected from water-soluble acrylic resin, water-soluble epoxy resin, water-soluble polyester resin, and water-soluble polyamide resin.--

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--13. The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 1, wherein said graphite material absorbs or is coated with an aqueous solution of the surface active material.--

--14. The graphite material for the negative electrode according to claim 13, wherein said aqueous solution contains either ion-exchanged water, or hot-spring water, underground water, well water or city water, any one of which contains lithium, calcium, magnesium, sodium or potassium.

REMARKS

The claims pending and under examination in this application are 1-3 and newly added claims 7-14. Claims 4-6 stand withdrawn from consideration subject to a requirement for restriction which has been made final.

Newly added claims 7-14 are dependent on claim 1 which has been elected for prosecution purposes. The new claims are directed to more specific embodiments of the invention claimed in claim 1. No new matter has been added by these new claims or the